

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. 1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for applying a sample film to a sample carrier for subsequent spectroscopic analysis of optical spectroscopy of samples~~, comprising the steps of:
 4. providing a quantity of sample in liquid state; providing a sample carrier having at least one sample position;
 6. applying said quantity of sample in liquid state on said at least one sample position in a plurality of partial quantities of said quantity of sample across a measurement area of said at least one sample position in such a manner that said partial quantities ~~on~~ across said measurement area of said at least one sample position are not in contact with one another before being dried;
 11. drying said quantity of sample to form said a sample film across said measurement area; and
spectroscopically analyzing said sample film across said measurement area employing at least one of infrared spectroscopy, near infrared spectroscopy and Raman spectroscopy.
1. 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said partial quantities of said quantity of sample are applied ~~to~~ across said measurement area of said at least one sample position in form of a ~~fine~~ grid with a maximum occupation density.
1. 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said partial quantities amount to from about 1/10,000 to about 1/10 of said quantity of sample to be applied to said at least one sample position.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying said quantity
2 of sample in liquid state ~~on~~ across said measurement area of said at least one
3 sample position comprises first applying a first layer of said partial quantities to
4 said at least one sample position, drying said first layer and applying at least one
5 further layer of partial quantities of said quantity of sample to said at least one
6 sample position and drying said at least one further layer of partial quantities.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising applying said partial
2 quantities belonging to said at least one further layer to said at least one sample
3 position such that said partial quantities of said at least one further layer are
4 offset with respect to positions of said partial quantities belonging to said first
5 layer.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying said quantity
2 of sample in liquid state on said at least one sample position comprises first
3 applying a first layer of said partial quantities to said at least one sample position,
4 drying said first layer and applying at least one further layer of partial quantities of
5 said quantity of sample to said at least one sample position and drying said at
6 least one further layer of partial quantities, wherein said partial quantities
7 belonging to said at least one further layer are applied to positions of said partial
8 quantities belonging to said first layer.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising heating said sample carrier.

1 8. (Canceled).

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 1, wherein said a plate is made from
2 infrared (IR)-transparent material is used as said sample carrier.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a metal plate whose
2 surface is roughened is used as said sample carrier.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample carrier is used as a
2 sample carrier having a plurality of sample positions.

12.-16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 5, further comprising heating said
2 sample carrier.

18. (Canceled).

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 5, wherein said plate is made from
2 infrared (IR)-transparent material.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 5, wherein a metal plate whose
2 surface is roughened is used as said sample carrier.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 5, wherein said sample carrier is
2 used as a sample carrier having a plurality of sample positions.

1 22. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising heating said sample carrier.

1 23. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein a plate made from infrared transparent
2 material is used as said sample carrier.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein a metal plate whose surface is roughened
2 is used as said sample carrier.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said sample carrier is used as a sample
2 carrier having a plurality of sample positions.